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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01,AID 28,CCO 00,FBO 01,JPM 04,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NIC 01,
NSC 10,0 02,OC 06,OPR 02,P 03,PER 02,RSC 01,PRS 01,SCA 01,SS 20,
SY 03,SCS 04,CIAE 00,DODE 00,NSAE 00,NSCE 00,SSO 00,USIE 00,
COM 08,INT 06,PC 04,RSR 01,UCF 05,IO 13,/157 W

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O 011250Z SEP 69 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4571

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY W H DATE 12 JUL 1982
RDS [ ] or XDS [ ] EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
EXISTING MARKINGS [ ]
DECLASSIFIED [ ] RELEASABLE [✓]
RELEASE DENIED [ ]
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 2099

FOLLOWING JUST RECEIVED FROM LANE IN BENGHAZI.

QUOTE

1. MILITARY COUP APPARENTLY COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL IN BENGHAZI. LOCAL RADIO/TV STATION, WHICH IS HEAVILY GUARDED AND APPEARS TO BE A SORT OF COMMAND POST, HAS BEEN BROADCASTING STEADY DIET OF MILITARY MUSIC SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING INTERSPERCED WITH CALLS FOR SPECIFIC MILITARY OFFICERS TO RETURN TO THEIR UNITS. BROADCASTS ARE BEING MADE IN THE NAME OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL.

2. ROAD BLOCKS HAVE BEEN SET UP AND ALL ROADS LEADING INTO TOWN AND ON TRIPOLI ROAD BUT TRAFFIC IS CIRCULATING MORE OR LESS NORMALLY ON RING ROAD. TELEPHONES IN SUBURBS WORKING BUT TRUNK LINE TO DOWN TOWN AREA, INCLUDING EMBASSY, CUT OFF. SCATTERED SHOOTING HAS BEEN HEARD IN VARIOUS PARTS OF CITY. OTHERWISE, CITY APPEARS QUIET. ALL BUSINESSES, ARE CLOSED AND STREETS ARE BEING PATROLLED BY REGULAR ARMY, ASSISTED BY CYDEF MOBILE STRIKE FORCE. ACCORDING TO MY NEIGHBOR, ABDALLAH JA "UDAH, SEN OF FORMER MINISTER OF HEALTH, A NUMBER OF TOP CYDEF OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. ALL WARDENS HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO TELL AMERICANS TO STAY HOME.

(1)

3. DURING DRIVE TO EMBASSY OFFICE WITH KELLY AND RICH, WE WERE

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TAKEN TO R/TV HEAD QUARTERS, WHERE I TALKED TO A LT QADDAFI, WHO SAID HE WAS NEPHEW OF P.M. LT QADDAFI MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:
A. COUP WAS STRICTLY INTERNAL MATTER AND U.S. SHOULD NOT INTERFERE.
B. LIBYA HAD CERTAIN AGREEMENTS WITH US AND NEW GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO HONOR THOSE AGREEMENTS.
C. MANY OFFICERS IN ARMY WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT BRITISH ARMS DEAL. THESE MEN BELIEVE THAT IF LIBYA IS GOING TO BUY ARMS IT SHOULD BE FROM A FIRST RATE POWER LIKE US OR USSR, NOT SECOND RATE POWER LIKE BRITAIN. LT QADDAFI THEN GAVE US PERMISSION TO PROCEED TO EMBASSY.

4. COMMENT: AT 09:40 SCATTERED SHOOTING CONTENUING BUT SITUATION OTHERWISE CALM. NEITHER EMBASSY BUILDING NOR AMERICAN CITS IN AREA APPEAR IN DANGER. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE PREPARING TO BURN TS MATERIAL. IT IS OF COURSE TOO EARLY TO TELL IF LT QADDAFI'S OPINIONS ARE ONLY HIS OWN OR REPRESENT ATTITUDE OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

UNQUOTE
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